



13 August 2009: Visas's and You: Your questions Answered

Q: Hi, a friend and I are planning to travel to the USA. My friend is a Chinese national and passport holder - can they apply for US tourist visa in London?

A: We have received numerous variations of this question. The answer is yes—citizens of countries who require a visa to visit the United States may apply for a U.S. visa at any U.S. Embassy or Consulate worldwide, not just the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in the country where they are from. However, the same rules apply regardless of where someone applies for a visa: in order to qualify for a US nonimmigrant visa, you must show that you are eligible under Section 214(b) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). This section of law stipulates that visa applicants are presumed to be intending immigrants to the United States until they can establish otherwise. Applicants typically confirm that they are bona fide visitors by demonstrating sufficiently strong social, economic, and financial ties to their place of residence to compel them to depart the United States after a brief visit. Although you are welcome to apply at any US Embassy or Consulate worldwide, you may find it easiest to demonstrate your ties in your home country or country of permanent residence.

If you are unsure as to whether or not you require a visa to visit the United States, you can check the Embassy's website at <http://london.usembassy.gov>, under Nonimmigrant Visas. It is explained there that all travelers need visas for the U.S. except for those that qualify under the Visa Waiver Program, or who are exempt from the visa requirement. A link is provided to our Visa Waiver wizard which will take you through a series of questions which determine whether or not you are Visa Waiver eligible. In addition, some travelers from Visa Waiver countries will require a visa for various reasons. Travelers from Visa Waiver countries must complete the ESTA registration online, which will determine their Visa Waiver eligibility. A link to the official ESTA website is available on the Embassy website. Please note that there is NO CHARGE for registration under ESTA. There is only one official, free online ESTA registration website.

Q: Hello I am a board member of nonprofit religious organization. We are thinking about inviting someone from England to lead our night prayers for the lunar of Ramadan. The organization will be paying for his housing and honorarium of about \$3000 What type of visa is appropriate for the visit?

Q: hi i'm just planning to go to disneyland for holiday i'm a mauritian passport holder and i live in uk just want to know how long they give holiday visa for???

A: How long your visa will be valid for will be decided at the outcome of your visa interview, if your application is successful. The consular officer conducting your interview will be able to tell you the validity of your visa if it is approved. Visa validity is based upon a number of factors, such as the purpose of your travel and whether your country of origin limits the validity of visas for American citizens.

Q: I have an conviction which is 30 years old. Do I need to attend an interview for a Tourist Visa?

A: Yes. Travelers to the United States must establish their eligibility for admission under U.S. visa law. Those with arrests or convictions may be ineligible on criminal grounds. As U.S. visa law does not recognize the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, a spent conviction, regardless of when it may have occurred, must be declared. Under certain circumstances those found ineligible to enter the United States may apply for a temporary waiver of their ineligibility so that



they can travel. Factors included in the decision to recommend a waiver would include: the severity of the crime that created the visa ineligibility; the period of time that has elapsed since they committed the crime or served a prison sentence, the reason and duration of the visit and any humanitarian considerations.

You are welcome to apply for a visa and will need to bring information on your convictions with you to the interview. I suggest that you visit our website at http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/add_crime.html for further information.

Q: can i check if i qualify for the waiver programme online?

A: Yes. Look at the Embassy's website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, to find the Visa Waiver wizard. By answering the questions, you will get a response as to whether or not you qualify for Visa Waiver travel.

Q: i have a passport but its not biometric, what rules apply to me

A: If you are a UK Citizen who plans to travel to the US under the Visa Waiver Program, your passport must be compliant with regulations, depending upon when your passport was issued. You can check your passport's eligibility on the Embassy's website at the following page: http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/mrp_bio.html

Q: my interview rescheduled to be in 26 Aug 09, can i change my interview to be earlier?

A: If you need to change your interview date, you may attempt to do so by calling the Live Operator Service, telephone 09042-450-100. If they have dates available, they will try to reschedule you. Although there are sometimes cancellations which allow for an earlier appointment date, you are always given the next available appointment date when your original appointment is booked. Please be advised that it is not possible to schedule emergency appointments for nonimmigrant visas, except in cases of actual life-or-death emergency.

Q: i need if i can apply for h4 visa when my spouse has already an H1 visa

A: If your spouse has a valid H1B visa, you are eligible to accompany him/her as his/her dependent. You can find all information about how to apply for this category of visa on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, or by calling our Live Operator Service at 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at £1.20 per minute).

Q: If you have a passport that was issued in 2002 and has not got the numbers and chevrons at the bottom of the information page, does that mean this passport is not allowed to be used for visa to the US?

A: If you are applying for a U.S. visa, it does not matter if your passport is machine-readable. However, if you are attempting to travel on the Visa Waiver Program, rules apply regarding what features your passport must have. All information about Visa Waiver eligibility and travel is available on our website at http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/vwp3.html

Q: if i wanted to go and live permanently in usa what procedures do i need to follow?

A: If you wish to take up residence you will require an immigrant visa. Immigration is based on family re-unification and employment. You will find detailed information on qualifying for a visa on our website at http://www.usembassy.org.uk/cons_new/visa/iv/index.html. The alternative is to work in the United States for a temporary period. In order to achieve this, either you or your spouse would require the sponsorship of a U.S. based employer who would file a temporary employment based petition on your behalf for either the H-1 or H-2 visa. Again, the information you require is on our website - http://www.usembassy.org.uk/cons_new/visa/niv/work.html

Q: Does a British person need a visa to visit the USA on Holiday for a 6 month period

A: UK Citizens are generally eligible to visit the US under the Visa Waiver Program for stays of up to 90 days (see the Embassy's website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, for eligibility). If they

wish to remain longer than this in the US, they must apply for a US visa prior to traveling to the United States.

Q: I want to apply for an intransit visa now but wish to travel in December, is that possible

A: All information about transit visas can be found on the Embassy's website at the following page: http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/transit.html

Q: I am a student in the United Kingdom, Wishing to travel home to my country. The cheapest tickets is via the USA. One of the requirements is that i need to show strong ties to a country and it would be better if i applied where those strong ties are, because it will be difficult for them to verify information in a third country. Very tricky, what should i do?

A: In order to qualify for a US nonimmigrant visa, you must show that you are eligible under Section 214(b) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). This section of law stipulates that visa applicants are presumed to be intending immigrants to the United States until they can establish otherwise. Applicants typically confirm that they are bona fide visitors by demonstrating sufficiently strong social, economic, and financial ties to their place of residence to compel them to depart the United States after a brief visit. Although you are welcome to apply at any US Embassy or Consulate worldwide, you may find it easiest to demonstrate your ties in your home country or country of permanent residence.

Q: how long it will take the visit visa to get issued??

A: If your visa application is approved on the day of your interview, it will be returned to you after approximately five workdays of processing by the Nonimmigrant Visa Unit, and the subsequent time needed for delivery by our courier service. Please note that we are not able to expedite this processing time.

Q: What is the earliest date of appointment I can get at US embassy in London

A: You can find the earliest appointment date by calling our Live Operator Service at 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at £1.20 per minute).

Q: what type of visa would i need to go to america and stay for 6 months or longer?

A: If you are an eligible citizen of a Visa Waiver country, please note that travel to the US under the VWP is for 90 days or less. If you would like to stay longer than 90 days, you must apply for a U.S. visa prior to your trip to the United States.

Please note that your U.S. visa is only permission to go to the U.S. border and ask for entry. Decisions about who may enter the United States, and for how long, are up to the US Dept of Homeland Security's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Upon entry to the U.S., a CBP officer at the port of entry will inform a traveler how long their maximum stay in the United States may be.

Q: Hi Ive been granted a J1 visa and I know I have to present my ds2019 form on arrival to the US. I think the embassy took my ds2019 in when they took my passport? is that right?

A: Yes. You would have had to present your DS-2019 at the time of your visa interview, and it would have been kept for the processing of your J1 visa. This form will be returned to you together with your printed visa by the courier service.

Q: I have to get my H-1B visa stamped before returning to US

A: You can find all information about how to apply for a US visa at Embassy London on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, or alternately by calling our Live Operator Service, telephone 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at £1.20 per minute).

Q: hi, i need help in applying for a us student visa. ive completed the DS 156 and 158 forms. what else do i need to do?



A: You can find all information about how to apply for a US visa at Embassy London on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, or alternately by calling our Live Operator Service, telephone 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at £1.20 per minute).

Q: me and my family are planning to go to LA and Las Vegas over X-mass and I want to buy the tickets now, to avoid high price, do I need to apply for visa Waiver Now?

A: If you are eligible to travel on the Visa Waiver Program, you still must register with the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). You can register under ESTA with out any firm travel plans. If approved, your registration will be valid for travel for two years, or until the date on which your passport expires. In order to register under ESTA, a traveler must be eligible to travel under the Visa Waiver Program. One of the requirements for traveling visa free is that you have a round-trip or onward ticket. Provided that you will have such a ticket by the time you travel, and you are otherwise qualified to travel visa free, you may register under ESTA at any time. There is **only one official ESTA site**, and that is <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> which is free to all users.

Q: My wife is a Sri Lankan Citizen with UK Settlement Visa. I hold british citizenship. I will be travelling to NY in one month and I would like to take my wife with me.. How long would it take to get the visa for my wife?

A: You can find all information about how to apply for a US visa at Embassy London on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, or alternately by calling our Live Operator Service, telephone 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at £1.20 per minute). The Live Operator Service will be able to advise you as to the next available nonimmigrant visa appointment date when you call.

Q: My father in law has still got his green card in his passport from his last visit to the usa - what should he do?

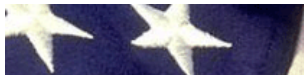
A: The "green card" you are referring to is a form I-94, the record of your father's entry to the United States. This is the form you fill out on the plane on your way to the U.S.

If you returned home with your Form I-94 (white) or Form I-94W (green) Departure Record in your passport, it is possible that your departure was not recorded properly.

If you departed by a commercial air or sea carrier (airlines or cruise ships), your departure from the U.S. can be independently verified, and it is not necessary to take any further action, although holding on to your outbound (from the U.S.) boarding pass - if you still have it - can help expedite your re-entry next time you come back to the United States.

If you departed by land, private vessel or private plane, you will need to take steps to correct the record. If you do not validate your timely departure from the United States, or, if you cannot reasonably prove you departed within the time frame given to you when you entered, the next time you apply for admission to the U.S., CBP may conclude you remained in the U.S. beyond your authorized stay. If this happens, your visa may be subject to cancellation or you may be returned immediately to your foreign point of origin.

Under the Visa Waiver Program, visitors who remain beyond their permitted stay in the United States cannot reenter the U.S. in the future without obtaining a visa from a U.S. Consulate. So if you are a Visa Waiver Program visitor who traveled by land to either Canada or Mexico for an onward flight, it is particularly important for you to register your timely departure if your green I-94w was not taken when you exited the U.S. If you fail to do so and you arrive at a U.S. port-of-entry seeking admission under the Visa Waiver Program without a visa, CBP Officers may order your immediate return to a foreign point of origin. If you are a VWP visitor and you left the U.S. by an air or sea carrier, you don't need to worry.



If you failed to turn in your I-94 Departure Record, please send it, along with any documentation that proves you left the United States to:

- DHS - CBP SBU
- 1084 South Laurel Road
- London, KY 40744

Q: Non-immigrant Visa issued in London by US Embassy to a British Citizen for multiple entry to US indefinitely in 1987 - does it still hold ok even though passport are renewed.

A: Sorry, but all visas which were issued for an "indefinite" period are now invalid. If you are a UK Citizen, you may be eligible for travel under the Visa Waiver Program. You can check on the Embassy's website via our Visa Waiver wizard:

http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/visa_wizard.html

Q: I have been offered the possibility of 18 months employment on a light rail project in California. I am a designer/supervisor of rail systems with 36 years experience. Please advise on the most suitable visa for my circumstances, as I do not have a university degree.

A: You can find information about how to apply for all categories of nonimmigrant visa on the Embassy's website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>. Please note that work in the US is not permitted on a tourist visa. If you still have questions after looking at the website regarding your job offer, the company who has offered you employment is probably a good place to ask.

Q: we are applying for non migrant visa. multiple entry, how many months visa will the consular grant us

A: It depends. How long your visa will be valid for, if your application is approved, will depend upon what type of nonimmigrant visa you are applying for, the validity of your passport, visa regulations and something called "reciprocity," which is for what validity your country of origin would issue a visa to an American citizen wishing to visit there. An extra fee may also be applicable if your country charges such a fee to American citizens.

Q: could you please tell me what documents I need to take with me for my application to be successful?

A: Aside from the required visa application forms and fee forms, what you bring to your visa interview is up to you. You are permitted to submit whatever supporting documentation you would like for your application. Again, in order to qualify for a US nonimmigrant visa, you must show that you are eligible under Section 214(b) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). This section of law stipulates that visa applicants are presumed to be intending immigrants to the United States until they can establish otherwise. Applicants typically confirm that they are bona fide visitors by demonstrating sufficiently strong social, economic, and financial ties to their place of residence to compel them to depart the United States after a brief visit. You may bring whatever documents you feel would support your application.

Q: What particular visa is required for a chinese national who will be working for a UK employer in the US for a period of one year?

A: If you plan to work in the United States, you will not be able to do this on a visitor's visa. In most cases, work in the United States will require a petition that has been approved by the Department of Homeland Security. You can find all information about different types of visas, including those for work, on our webpage: <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: I am a British National. Can I enter America on a tourist visa and gain a work visa whilst there? I want to work in America for between 6 months and a year

A: No. If you enter the US as a tourist, whether on a tourist visa or via the Visa Waiver Program, you are not permitted to adjust status to any other visa category. If wish to work in the United States, you must obtain the appropriate work visa prior to traveling to the US. You can find

information about all types of nonimmigrant visas on the Embassy's website:
<http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: how does british passport holder obtain visa to USA in one day

A: Sorry, this won't be possible. If you are a UK citizen, please check our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, to see if you are eligible to travel under the Visa Waiver Program. If you are not, you must call the Live Operator Service (09042-250-100 from within the UK; calls are charged at £1.20 per minute) to book a visa interview appointment. You will be given the next available appointment date. If your visa is approved on the day of your interview, there will be approximately 5 days of processing time plus the return time by the courier service before your passport with your visa is returned to you.

Q: when does greece qualify for visa waiver?

A: You can find information about which countries currently participate in the Visa Waiver Program on the Embassy's website at http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/visa_wizard.html. Although sometimes new countries are added to the Visa Waiver Program, we are not able to comment in advance about which countries may join in the future or at what time.

Q: i live in london i am a south african citizen would like to join us navy and my visa has runout here in the uk would like to find information on how can i get visa to join the aforesaid us navy. will you please advise me clearly which steps should i follow. thank you

A: While not a visa question, we are pleased with your interest in serving the United States. You can find all information about how to join the U.S. Navy on their website, <http://www.navy.com/>

Q: My girlfriend is an american citizen, and has lived there all of her life, we are expecting a baby in february, where do i stand concerning visas?

A: Congratulations on your upcoming parenthood! Your baby may acquire US citizenship at birth, as his/her mother is a US citizen. You can find more information about this on the American Citizen Services page: http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/acs/passports/childindex.html. If your spouse intends to file an immigrant visa petition for you so that you can move to the US, you can find that information on the Embassy's website as well, under "Immigrant Visas."

Q: is it possible to get US visa for people who are temporary working in UK and have temporary registration (e.g. till the end of this year) or visa can be issued in country of birth only? If it is possible how long might it take?

A: You may apply for a US visa at any US Embassy or Consulate worldwide. In order to qualify for a US nonimmigrant visa, you must show that you are eligible under Section 214(b) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). This section of law stipulates that visa applicants are presumed to be intending immigrants to the United States until they can establish otherwise. Applicants typically confirm that they are bona fide visitors by demonstrating sufficiently strong social, economic, and financial ties to their place of residence to compel them to depart the United States after a brief visit. Although you are welcome to apply at any US Embassy or Consulate, you may find it easiest to demonstrate your ties in your home country or country of permanent residence.

Q: I am planning to attend a conference in USA for that I will require B-1 via. Do I need to provide evidence of my plane tickets and hotel room reservation during the visa interview or I can book these after the interview when the decision about the visa is made

A: At the time of your visa interview, in addition to the documents necessary for your application, you are welcome to bring whatever supporting documentation you would like. In order to qualify for a US nonimmigrant visa, you must show that you are eligible under Section 214(b) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). This section of law stipulates that visa applicants are presumed to be intending immigrants to the United States until they can establish otherwise. Applicants typically confirm that they are bona fide visitors by demonstrating sufficiently strong

social, economic, and financial ties to their place of residence to compel them to depart the United States after a brief visit.

Q: hi its been a year now from the day I had an interview at US embassy london for non immigrant visa, I have been put on hold for further admin processing

A: Applicants are advised on the day of the interview of the average processing time for their application. Those who are ineligible for a visa due to a conviction, immigration violation, or drink or drug related offense can expect to wait approximately 8 weeks before being contacted. In all other cases, most administrative processing is resolved within 90 days; however, sometimes administrative processing can take six months, or longer. **If more than 90 days has passed and you have not heard from us, I suggest that you call the Operator Assisted Information Service for further information – 09042 450 100 (Calls cost 1.20/min).**

Q: hi wanna know if its possible to take an appointment online

A: Sorry, no. The Embassy does not provide online appointment booking. All appointments must be booked by calling our Live Operator Service, telephone 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at £1.20 per minute).

Q: Hi, Can you tell me is there a minimum length of time (ie 3 months) required on a UK passport when going to the USA?

A: The requirement that a passport be valid for six months beyond the holder's stay in the United States is waived in the case of a British passport holder. Provided your passport is valid for the duration of your visit, you may travel. If traveling under the Visa Waiver Program and your passport is not valid for 90 days, you will be admitted until the date on which it expires.

Q: I applied for B1 visa and asked to send my passport to receive the visa. However, my passport was stolen and I missed the conference. Can I send my passport to receive the visa and use it to visit USA? (tourist purpose)

A: Sorry, but no. If you have had your passport lost or stolen, you will have to apply for a new U.S. visa using the regular procedure (which can be found on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>). You should inform the Embassy at the time of your interview that your previous visa was lost or stolen, so that a note may be made in the official record in case someone tries to use your lost/stolen visa.

Q: max length of stay in any given period on the visa waiver programme

A: The maximum amount of time permitted in the US on the Visa Waiver Program is 90 days. Although VWP travelers are usually admitted for this maximum amount of time, this is at the discretion of the US Customs and Border Protection officers at the port of entry.

Q: I have updated the ESTA system with travel to the US on Thurs. Do I receive an email confirming the update is successful?

A: Please note that there is only one official registration site for the ESTA program, and that is <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. Any site that is charging a fee to register under ESTA is not an official U.S. government website. When you register under this website, the program will give you a real-time response as to whether you are approved under ESTA or not. You must wait for this response at the time you apply; it is usually returned within one minute. You will not receive a subsequent email regarding your application.

Q: both my wife and I are Russian passport holders. Live in the UK, on a work permit visa. Both have US 2-year business visas (as I regularly travel for work). Had a baby 6 months ago. Baby has a page in my passport. Hence question: Does the baby need additional visa to enter the US, or does my existing visa cover her, because she's in my passport?

A: Although your baby will not need her own passport, she will need her own US visa. All travelers to the United States must either qualify under the Visa Waiver Program or be in

possession of their own visa in their own name. You can find all information about how to apply for a US visa for your daughter on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: I'm in a same-sex Civil Partnership and my Brazilian partner has a residence card as the partner of me, an EEA national. (I have dual US/Irish citizenship.) We wish to travel to the US. Does my partner need a visa? Thank you

A: All travelers who are not citizens of a Visa Waiver country or exempt from the visa requirement (please see our webpage: http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/index.html) must apply for a visa prior to traveling to the United States.

Q: Hello, I would like to come to the states in the near future seeking gap year employment, do you know which visa i should apply for? Thanks

A: You can find all information about what types of US visas are available on the Embassy's website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>. Please note that work is not permitted while in the United States on a visitor's visa.

Q: Hello - want to submit this question in advance of the August discussion. If I, a U.S. citizen resident in the UK intend to bring a foreign national (German citizen, so on the visa waiver) to the U.S. for a wedding ceremony but we do NOT intend to reside in the U.S. immediately, do we still need a K-1 visa? I have seen some suggestion that if we do not intend to live in the U.S. it is acceptable to enter under the visa waiver program but I worry that this might cause trouble in the future if we should decide to move to the U.S. and initiate the immigrant visa process.

A: It depends. Although you are permitted to get married in the United States without a K-1 fiance visa if you are both otherwise eligible to enter the US (you as a citizen, your fiancé under the Visa Waiver Program) and you do not plan to take up residence in the US, the decision about permitting your fiancé to enter is up to the US Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, whose officers staff US ports of entry. You should bring with you as much proof of your residence abroad as possible.

Q: i have recently got a usa visa on by british passport but my passport is now damaged, will my visa still be valid

A: Although your visa will be valid until its expiration date if it is not damaged, you may not be permitted to travel on your damaged passport. If you replace your passport, you may carry your damaged passport which contains the valid visa together with the new passport to travel.

Q: how do i apply for a visa to live and work in the u.s, i am a skilled worker with an american citizen father

A: A: If you plan to work in the United States, you will not be able to do this on a visitor's visa. In most cases, work in the United States will require a petition that has been approved by the Department of Homeland Security. You can find all information about different types of visas, including those for work, on our webpage: <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

However, if your father is an American citizen, you may also be eligible for American citizenship through him. Please visit our website and look under American Citizen Services for more information.

Q: if u are travelling with a german citizen, do you need to submit his or her passport alongside yours, when making an application

A: No. If you are applying for a visa, the application is based upon you and your situation alone. The status or citizenship of your family members or friends is not taken into account. You must meet the requirements for a U.S. visa entirely on your own merits.

Q: i obtained a us visa last year and its 2 years multiple entry. i have since got a new passport as the old one expired. do i need to and how do i go about transferring this visa to my new passport?

A: Unfortunately, there is no such process as "transferring" a visa. If you have a valid visa in your old passport, and obtain a new passport, you may carry both passports together when you

travel to the United States and present your valid visa in your expired passport together with your new, valid passport. Alternately, you may apply for an entirely new U.S. visa (following the procedures outlined on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>) to be placed in your new passport. You will have to apply for and qualify for this new visa in the same way as your old visa; it will be treated like a completely separate, new application.

Q: i have a readable british passport , (no chip) do i need to get a chipped one it has 3 years left on it, not travelling till next year , also do i need a visa as i dont really understand them (sorry) my husband is also travelling with me and his passport is chipped

A: This will depend on when your passport was issued. Please visit our website at http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/mrp_bio.html to read all passport requirements for travelers under the Visa Waiver Program. If your passport was issued, renewed or extended on or after October 26, 2006, then it must have an electronic "chip."

Q: do you have to have a passport before you can apply for a visa?

A: Yes.

Q: Im applying for ESTA under VWP, I have been denied visa on my Philippine passport but not on my British Passport, shall I answer yes or no? I'm not sure if the question is about my British passport

A: If you have been previously denied a visa, even in another passport or under another nationality, you should answer "yes" when applying for ESTA.

Q: i have a question if i have got already visa but is expired do i need new one or i have to extend a visa?

A: It is not possible to "extend" your U.S. visa. Your visa is valid until its expiration date as printed only. Once it is expired, you will have to apply for a new visa if you wish to travel to the United States.

Q: I've been in the US on one type of work visa since 2006. This visa expired, but I have a renewal form for another work visa from the Department of Homeland Security that is valid until 2011. Do I need to leave the US to apply for this visa?

A: You don't need to apply for a new visa UNTIL you leave the United States. As you have received your new approval form (I-797) regarding your new visa, you are in status while you are in the U.S. However, if you leave the United States, in order to re-enter you will have to have a new visa, based upon your new approval notice, placed into your passport. You will have to apply for the visa via the application process at the Embassy or Consulate where you choose to apply.

Q: Is it possible to reschedule the appointment?

A: If you need to reschedule your visa interview appointment, please call our Live Operator Service at 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at £1.20 per minute). They can reschedule your appointment for you.

Q: Hi, I need to travel to ecuador in november and my flight will transit in America ,me and my daughter have italian passports, do we need transit visas?

A: Not necessarily. If you are eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program (WVP), you will not be required to apply for visas. You can check your eligibility to travel under the WVP by visiting our website - http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/visawizard/index.html. If not eligible, then you will require visas.

Q: My mum and great aunt are going to canda to stay with their cousin/nephew. During their hols they will be going on a cruise to alaska. Do they need visa for the US? How do I get them? My mum is 68 and my great aunt is 76 (ish)

A: Yes. If you and your mother will be visiting Alaska while on the cruise, you will either need to travel under the Visa Waiver Program (if you are eligible, and the cruise line you are sailing with is a cooperating carrier) or obtain U.S. visas prior to your trip. Check with your cruise line.

Q: my husband is an e1 visa holder we got married 3 weeks ago i need to change my visa status from b2 what is the best way of doing this

A: You can find all information about how to apply for your E visa on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, or by calling our Live Operator Service at 09042-450-100 (from within the UK; calls are charged at £1.20 per minute).

Q: Hello: I Rahim Ali currently living in london as a student dependent and my wife is student of University of London and our visa expire in october 2010 so can we apply for US visa from london in christmas vacation.

A: Yes—citizens of countries who require a visa to visit the United States may apply for a U.S. visa at any U.S. Embassy or Consulate worldwide, not just the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in the country where they are from. However, the same rules apply regardless of where someone applies for a visa: in order to qualify for a US nonimmigrant visa, you must show that you are eligible under Section 214(b) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). This section of law stipulates that visa applicants are presumed to be intending immigrants to the United States until they can establish otherwise. Applicants typically confirm that they are bona fide visitors by demonstrating sufficiently strong social, economic, and financial ties to their place of residence to compel them to depart the United States after a brief visit. Although you are welcome to apply at any US Embassy or Consulate worldwide, you may find it easiest to demonstrate your ties in your home country or country of permanent residence.

Q: I intend to visit a friend at the US, should i provide a invitation letter from him or just the details asked on the forms will be enough ??

A: You are welcome to bring any supporting documentation that you would like to your visa interview. Please keep in mind that in order to qualify for a U.S. visa, you must prove that you have strong ties to your country of residence, which will compel you to depart the United States after a brief visit. While you are welcome to include letters of support or invitation with your supporting documentation, they do not generally help an applicant to prove his/her ties to their country of residence. Invitation letters or “guarantees” from relatives or friends in the United States are not considered as proof of ties under U.S. visa law.

Q: I am flying to Boston with my wife, staying in the USA for 5 days, and then flying onto Canada, from where we'll return direct to the UK after about 10 days. Taking account of the various regulations regarding countries bordering the USA will we able to gain entry to the USA using ESTA and not having a visa? Thanks.

A: If you are qualified to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program and your registration to travel under ESTA is approved, you will require nothing further. You can find details about the Visa Waiver Program on our website at the following link: http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/vwp3.html and remember that there is only one official ESTA website which is <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>

Q: how do i pay the visa fee

A: The visa fee will be taken by our Live Operator Service when you call to book your visa appointment. You will need to have your credit card. If you are not the card holder, the Live Operator Service will need to speak to the card holder in order to take the visa fee.

Q: I would like to go to the US for medical treatment. What should I do?

A: There is no special visa to go to the U.S. for medical treatment; you will apply for a normal visitor's visa. You can find all information about how to do this on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>. If your case is a medical emergency, please inform the Live Operator Service when you call to book an appointment, and they may be able to offer you an expedited appointment. When you come for your visa appointment, you will have to bring all



proof about the medical condition, what treatment you have set up in the United States, how this treatment will be paid for, and other relevant questions. In addition to this, you must meet the normal requirements for a visitor's visa applicant.

Q: Hallo! My mother holds a British Passport but is resident in Cyprus. She will be flying to Houston for Christmas - does she need a Visa or an ESTA? Many thanks for your time.

A: If your mother is a UK citizen and eligible to travel under the Visa Waiver Program, she needs to complete an online ESTA registration prior to traveling to the United States, regardless of which country in which she is currently resident.

Q: hallo, i want to apply for visa soon, and i got my maiden name it it. When i have a new passport, is visa is transferable from old passport to new one?

A: No. We are not able to "transfer" a U.S. visa from an old to a new passport. If you have changed your name and would like a visa in your new name, you will have to apply for an entirely new U.S. visa. Alternatively, if the visa is still valid and the passport agency did not damage the visa in any when cancelling the passport, you may travel with both passports, provided they are of the same nationality and you are traveling for the same purpose for which they were issued. Your change of name does not affect the validity of the visa.

Q: Can a British citizen, who is married to a US citizen, spend six months in the US (as a non-immigrant, visiting for pleasure) without a visa?

A: UK citizens who are eligible may travel under the Visa Waiver Program to the United States for stays of a maximum of 90 days. If a UK citizen wishes to remain in the U.S. beyond that time, they must apply for a visa. Again, visas do not indicate how much time a traveler may remain in the United States. How long a traveler will be permitted to stay in the United States on any given trip will be decided by the Customs and Border Protection officer at the U.S. port of entry. They will tell each individual admitted to the United States how long they are permitted to stay.

Q: If you have a passport that was issued in 2002 and has not got the numbers and chevrons at the bottom of the information page, does that mean this passport is not allowed to be used for visa to the US?

A: If you are applying for a U.S. visa, it is not necessary to have a machine-readable passport. However, if you are traveling on the Visa Waiver Program, certain requirements do apply. Please see our website at the following link: http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/niv/vwp3.html

Q: How long do I need to leave my passport in the embassy when applying for a visa?

A: If your application is successful, it will take approximately 5 days of processing, plus the return by the courier service, for your passport and visa to be returned to you.

Q: i've been convicted of drink driving, will that stop me getting a visa?

A: You will need to apply for a visa, following the procedures outlined on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>. When you call the Live Operator Service to make your visa appointment, be sure to inform them about your conviction. This will help them to ensure you are given the correct category of appointment. Your eligibility for a U.S. visa can only be determined by a consular officer during your visa interview.

Q: What visa do I need for an unpaid internship lasting under 90 days?

A: If you wish to pursue practical training through an internship with a U.S. based employer you will require either an exchange visitor (J-1) or trainee (H-3) visa. Such activities cannot be conducted on a B-2 visa or visa free under the Waiver Program, even if you will receive no payment from a U.S. source.

The first step is to determine if the prospective employer is a designated exchange visitor program sponsor. Training opportunities exist in variety of occupational categories including the arts and culture, information media and communications, education, management, business, commerce and finance. If the prospective employer is a designated exchange visitor program sponsor they will issue you with a Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status, form DS-2019, which you will be required to furnish when applying for a J-1 visa.

If no exchange program exists, you may be eligible to obtain the requisite sponsorship for the J-1 visa through an approved work exchange program. There are a number of work exchange programs between the United Kingdom and the United States which allow participants to perform any employment which is available to them, others are restricted to a specific field. Further information is available from the individual program sponsor.

If you are unable to obtain sponsorship for an exchange visitor visa, your prospective employer will be required to file, on your behalf, a petition to accord you trainee (H-3) status. The petition, Form I-129H, is filed with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) having jurisdiction over the area of intended employment. The petition will take several months to be processed. You will find further information on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov>

Where do i apply for my ESTA

A: There is only one official website for ESTA registration: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. This registration is FREE. Do not register for ESTA on other websites advertising ESTA registration. You can register for ESTA without knowing your travel dates, and your registration will be valid for two years.

Q: iF I was denied entry to the us from canada in 1991 after over staying for about 3 months do i need to request the original documentation to apply for another visa?

A: You will not need to have the original documentation regarding your entry denial with you when you apply for a U.S. visa. This information will be available to the Embassy or Consulate when you apply.

Q: im married to an american who is living in south carolina im still here in the uk can you tell me what we need to do for me to get a spouse visa to live over there and how much it cost and takes to sort out?

A: You can find all information about how to apply for an immigrant visa on our website, <http://london.usembassy.gov>, under the heading "Immigrant Visas." Please note that this process begins with your U.S. citizen family member filing an I-130 petition for a relative for you from the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Q: paul (Submitted question): Hi, My wife and I have held B2 visas in the past (my last expired Sept 07 and my wifes Aug 05). Can these be renewed or do we need to apply for new visas? We currently live in the Canary Islands, Spain and are British subjects. Our intention is to return to the US and buy a motor yacht for cruising within the US waters for up to 6 months per year.

A: There is no such thing as visa "renewal." Your U.S. visa is valid until its printed expiry date. If you wish to travel to the United States after that time, you will have to apply for an entirely new U.S. visa.

Q: I just went on your website and see that now some travellers need to get a visa to come into the states even for a short visit!! Freaking out over here as I am a US citizen and my boyfriend and I are in a wedding and were leaving the UK in less than 4 weeks and I just need to ensure that he gets to go!

A: If your boyfriend is not a citizen of a Visa Waiver country, then he will need to apply for a U.S. visa prior to traveling to the United States. You can find information about the Visa Waiver Program, including our Visa Waiver wizard which allows a traveler to answer questions to determine their eligibility for WVP travel, on our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov>.

Q: I am co habiting with a US citizen we have been together about 18months and he is living with me in the uk. We are thinking about returing to the US . I was born in UK and hold a british passport. We dont want to get married. Is is possible for me to return to US with him as his partner?

A: Under U.S. visa regulations, there are no immigrant visa categories for the unmarried partner of a U.S. citizen to accompany them to the United States for settlement (an "immigrant visa"). You can read more about what immigrant visa categories are available on our website at the following link: http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/visa/iv/index.html

Q: If one has a visa application pending (green card application as spouse of US citizen), can one enter the US for a short-term stay like a normal tourist? (I am a British citizen)

A: It depends. Although if you are a citizen of a Visa Waiver country, and register with ESTA, you are still eligible to travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program, whether or not you are admitted is the decision of the officer from the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection at the U.S. port of entry.

Q: My wife and 2 year old son have Visa appointment tomorrow. Can my wife carry with her food and water for herself and my son?

A: Yes. Your wife may bring food and water. Snacks are also available for purchase in the visa waiting room.

Q: I want to travel in December for holiday,Is it possible for me to book my appointment for November even though I am still in August?Can I book my appointment in advance?Thank you

A: Yes. You can book your visa appointment in advance of your travel—in fact, we recommend it! You should always wait to receive your visa before making any firm travel plans.

Q: Hello, How often can a UK citizen in one calander year travel to U.S. on 90 day VWP for holliday, tourism and visiting friends, family? The last time my friend came to U.S. (the second time in a year) she was told by Port of Entry, she would not be able to come again on a 90 day VWP. They instructed her to apply for a 6 month Visitors Visa in the UK.

A: As we have stated before, both for travelers under the Visa Waiver Program and for those entering the U.S. with a valid visa, it is up to the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection as to how long you are permitted to stay in the United States. The officer who admits you to the United States will tell you how long you are permitted to stay.

If an officer feels that someone is entering too frequently or staying in the United States for very long periods under the Visa Waiver Program, they can refuse that individual further entry under the VWP and tell them they must obtain a U.S. visa in before making any future visits to the United States.

Q: When will appointments for November 20 and November 23 be available?

A: We open new appointment times periodically as they are needed. Although we are not able to say exactly when a certain appointment date will be open, we encourage all travelers to apply for their visas well in advance of any planned travel. Even if you are not traveling until Christmas, now is not too early to apply. Always wait until you have received your visa before making any firm travel plans.

Q: Hello, the website said that we can submit questions before the meeting, so here goes: The travel.state.gov website states that H1B visa processing time at London is 3 working days. Does it mean that if the visa interview is on Monday, the passport will most likely be given to DX secure on the following Wednesday?



A: If you apply for a visa and it is approved, your passport will be returned to you after approximately 5 – 10 workdays and the subsequent return by the courier service. Please note that 5 – 10 workdays is an approximate time for petition based applications; processing could take more time or less time.

Q: my partner's visa application has been refused today up in the U.S.embassy London.Can we appeal against this decision

A: No. There is no appeals process for nonimmigrant visa applications. If your application has been denied, and you wish to pursue the matter, you must submit an entirely new visa application. However, if you have already been refused a visa at an interview, we recommend that you wait until your situation has changed before reapplying for a visa.

Q: I have a nonimmigrant visa and the valid date is indefinitely, I have the number of the visa too, is it still valid?

A: No. Visas used to be issued to citizens of some countries with an "indefinite" validity period. All visas of this type are no longer valid. If you are not eligible to travel under the Visa Waiver Program, you will need to apply for a new U.S. visa prior to traveling to the United States.

Q: Hi. I am a consultant physician and am asked every clinic by patients if they can use the visa waiver programme. Please tell me what medical conditions require a formal visa. Eg I have patients with acne, arthritis. Can they use ESTA?

A: When Visa Waiver travelers register with ESTA, they are asked a series of online questions regarding their application. One of these is "Do you have a communicable disease?" If someone is unsure as to what this may mean, they may click on this topic and ESTA will open a window describing which conditions are meant by this question. They should complete the entire ESTA registration and wait for their response; ESTA will tell them if they are approved to travel, or require a visa.

Q: Are you open on Columbus Day?

A: No. The Embassy is closed on American and some UK holidays. If you would like to know which days the Embassy is open, you can find a list of all holidays during which the Embassy will be closed on our website at the following link: <http://london.usembassy.gov/ukpubhol.html>